REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	09 April 1998
Name of applicant/court:	Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Long Riders
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Star Distributors
Author:	Not Stated
Format:	Book
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature:	Running time:
Trailers:	Running time:
	Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display Conditions:

Either

That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the publication; or any package in which the publication is kept
and
That the publication must be publicly displayed only in a sealed package
and
That where the publication is publicly displayed in a package, the package must be made of opaque material.

Or

That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the publication; or any package in which the publication is kept
and
That the publication must be publicly displayed only in a sealed package
and
That the publication must be publicly displayed only in premises, or a part of premises, set aside for the public display of restricted publications (whether or not articles other than restricted publications are also displayed in those premises or that part of those premises).

Or

That the publication, must not be publicly displayed in any place in which the publication is available for supply, and must be shown in that place only to persons making a direct request for the publication, or as the case requires, the poster.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The book *Long Riders* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The book consists of a series of detailed and graphic accounts of sexual encounters between homosexual men. It has little plot or characterisation. The main character, in particular, is defined by these sexual encounters and by his insatiable sexual appetite. The exaggerated and highly-coloured language used in descriptions of sexual activities is demeaning. Most of the sexual activities described take place between a rodeo cowboy and the clients who pay to have sex with him during his off-duty hours. The setting, a rubbish-strewn alley, and the 'rough trade' type of sexual behaviour described, are degrading and demeaning. A sado-masochistic episode has especially degrading and demeaning aspects.

However, the Classification Office does not consider that these degrading and demeaning elements are so strong that the availability of the book to adult readers would be likely to be injurious to the public good. Overall, the sexual activities are described as mutually pleasurable and the main character appears to gain satisfaction from his life-style.

The relevant provisions of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBR Act) have been considered. Given the explicit nature of the book's sexual content, the classification decision is considered a reasonable and justified limitation of the rights and freedoms set out in s14 of the NZBR Act.

OFLC Ref: 9700841